

**NEWARK LEAD IN DRINKING WATER UPDATES****COMPLETED ACTIONS\***

- EPA (Region 2, Region 5 and HQ-OW-OGWDW, ORD)
  - Held two technical calls with NJDEP to discuss topics including flushing, filters, corrosion control, and Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) requirements.
  - Reviewed and provided comments, via email and a conference call, to NJDEP on CDM Smith's draft Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT) Study for the City of Newark.
  - Reviewed and provided comments on NJDEP's response to Newark Water Department on the draft CCT Study.
  - Provided translation/interpretation services for two of the City of Newark's public meetings, as well as for a brochure on lead for Newark residents.
- City of Newark
  - Distributed free filters to Newark residents with lead service lines.
    - According to NJDEP, filter distribution as of 10/30/18 is 12,049. NJDEP does not know of any bottled water distribution but is confirming.
  - Conducted public outreach, including two public meetings (October 25<sup>th</sup> and October 30<sup>th</sup>).
  - According to NJDEP, Newark Water Department continues to conduct sampling as required by the LCR. The system has not modified their CCT yet, and will need to apply for temporary treatment approval from NJDEP first.

**SHORT TERM ACTIONS UNDERWAY**

- NJDEP
  - Developing a plan to address Newark Water Department's 8 consecutive systems, particularly Bloomfield, Belleville, Pequannock Township and Liberty - City of Elizabeth water departments.
    - Bloomfield Water Department has a lead action level exceedance (22 ppb for the monitoring period 1/1/18-6/30/18).
    - Belleville Water Department needs to update their sampling plan.
  - Developing a plan to review 62 other systems in the state with lead action level exceedances.
- EPA
  - Maintaining regular communication with NJDEP staff and other technical experts in EPA.
  - Will assist NJDEP in developing their plan to address Newark Water Department's consecutive systems, such as questions regarding LCR requirements, the role of Newark Water Department (e.g. should they assist their consecutive system's with CCT), and/or next steps.
  - Will assist in the review of other systems with lead exceedances, such as how to prioritize systems for review and conducting reviews of the systems themselves, as needed.
  - Will provide public outreach (e.g. going door-to-door to deliver filters/provide information about how to install filters, distributing information on how to reduce lead exposure, providing translation services for informational materials, sharing information on LSL replacement etc.).
  - and/or response to public inquiries, as needed.
  - Working to secure a high-level meeting to discuss the several Newark drinking water issues (see Background section below); the meeting would include the Mayor, senior officials from the state (including NJDEP, NJDOH and the Governor's office), and senior EPA Region 2 leadership.

---

\* This, and the other lists of actions in this factsheet, are not a complete/exhaustive list of all actions completed, currently underway, or planned, and should not be considered representative of the NJDEP or the City of Newark, These are the actions EPA Region 2 is aware of and/or has participated in.

# Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

## BACKGROUND

The Newark Water Department is a public water system serving over 270,000 people. In 2017, the Newark Water Department had exceedances of the lead action level, and is currently working to revise its corrosion control treatment pursuant to an Administrative Consent Order with NJDEP. Treatment modifications will need to enable simultaneous compliance with both the DBPR maximum contaminant levels and the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR).

The City of Newark distributed filters to thousands of homes in Newark with lead service lines, following sampling in two homes with lead service lines that showed lead levels at approximately 148 and 400 ppb (the lead action level is 15 ppb). There are nearly 18,000 known lead service lines in the City of Newark; another 5,600 lines are unknown. In Newark, lead service lines are owned by homeowners, not the Newark Water Department, therefore they are not subject to the 7% lead service line replacement required by the Lead and Copper Rule. However, the Newark Water Department has initiated a 10-year lead service line replacement program which plans to replace approximately 1,600 lead service lines a year using Drinking Water State Revolving Fund monies.

NJDEP has primacy for the drinking water program and is the lead on working with Newark. EPA is closely engaged with NJDEP, both to monitor the situation in Newark and to provide assistance as needed, and will work with NJDEP, the Mayor of Newark, and other federal and state agencies as appropriate, to identify short- and long-term strategies to provide protection to the community.

## Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)

Region 2 has been made aware that elevated levels of haloacetic acids, or "HAA5," have been identified in Newark, NJ's drinking water. The information is based on sampling from the quarter ending on September 30, 2018. EPA's MCL for HAA5 is 60 ppb; some of the Newark testing sites reportedly average as high as 81 ppb. These exceedances are currently being investigated by the media. HAA5 are regulated by the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts rules (DBPR) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Long-term consumption of drinking water with elevated HAA5 levels is associated with increased cancer and other health risks.

The identification of elevated HAA5 levels is in addition to the recent announcement of elevated lead levels in some Newark residences. Newark Water Department has had compliance issues with the DBPR in the past. The NJDEP reached out to EPA Region 2 to discuss their response to address this issue. NJDEP will be issuing the Newark Water Department a violation letter. EPA Region 2 will continue to work with the NJDEP on this issue.

DRAFT